



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 29, 2011

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2230 (911 monument modification)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2230. This bill sought to require the Arizona Department of Administration to remove 11 phrases from the state monument that commemorates the events and aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our country.

That state monument, commonly known as the 9/11 Memorial, was the subject of controversy almost as soon as it was dedicated in 2006. So, public hearings were held. Lawmakers debated possible changes. Commissions devoted to the Governmental Mall and 9/11 Memorial itself met repeatedly. Finally – after an exhaustive, two-year process – a series of privately-funded memorial revisions were completed in order to end this controversy. In recent days, I have heard concerns from some of the Arizona families directly affected by the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath. For their sake, I am sorry this issue has reared its head once more.

The sponsor of this legislation had good intentions, but I am concerned about the unintended consequences that would have resulted from this bill. For example, the removal of Balbir Singh Sodhi's name from the 9/11 Memorial would have been a serious mistake with hurtful ramifications for the Sodhi family and the entire Sikh community in Arizona.

Current law clearly designates the Legislative Governmental Mall Commission as the legal authority regarding the alteration or modification of existing monuments at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Further alterations to the 9/11 Memorial or any other state monument should be vetted through this Commission.

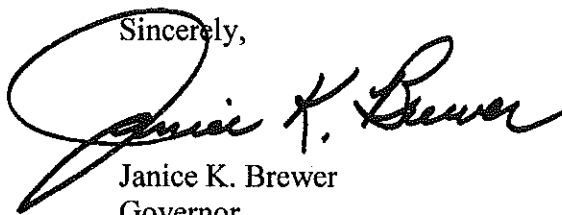
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The 9/11 attacks remain a raw nerve in Arizona and across the country. We may never arrive at a time when all Arizonans view the 9/11 Memorial for the healing experience that was intended. But, hopefully, we as Americans can agree to keep the tragic events of 9/11 in our thoughts and the families affected in our hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Russell Pearce
The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable John Kavanagh
Senate Secretary
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Arizona News Service

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fiftieth Legislature
First Regular Session
2011

HOUSE BILL 2230

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. September 11, 2001 commemorative monument;
3 modification; delayed repeal

4 A. Notwithstanding section 41-1364, Arizona Revised Statutes, before
5 September 11, 2011, the department of administration shall remove the
6 existing panels containing the following phrases from the monument that is
7 dedicated to the commemoration of the events and effects of the attack on the
8 United States on September 11, 2001:

- 9 1. "Fear of foreigners"
- 10 2. "09 15 01 Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh, murdered in Mesa"
- 11 3. "Foreign-born Americans afraid"
- 12 4. "Feeling of invincibility lost"
- 13 5. "Must bomb back"
- 14 6. "You don't win battles of terrorism with more battles"
- 15 7. "Violent acts leading US to war 05 07 1915, 12 07 1941, 08 04 1964
16 & 09 11 2001"
- 17 8. "06 03 02 Congress questions why CIA & FBI didn't prevent attacks"
- 18 9. "FBI agent issues July 2001 warning in 'Phoenix Memo'"
- 19 10. "03 13 02 New Afghan leader elected"
- 20 11. "Middle East violence motivates attacks in US"

21 B. The department of administration shall sell the panels containing
22 the phrases listed in subsection A of this section to a scrap metal dealer or
23 other person in the business of recycling scrap metal. For the purposes of
24 this subsection, the department is exempt from the provisions of title 41,
25 chapter 23, Arizona Revised Statutes.

26 C. The department of administration shall deposit monies received
27 pursuant to subsection B of this section in the state monument and memorial
28 repair fund established by section 41-1365, Arizona Revised Statutes. The
29 department shall accept any private grants, gifts, contributions and devises
30 for the purposes of this section and deposit these monies in the state
31 monument and memorial repair fund. The department shall allocate monies
32 deposited pursuant to this subsection for the benefit of the 9-11
33 commemorative monument.

34 D. The department of administration may leave the remaining panels
35 that do not contain the phrases listed in subsection A of this section on the
36 monument or remove the panels. If the department removes the panels, the
37 department shall store these panels in a safe and secure location. The
38 department of administration shall reconstruct the 9-11 commemorative
39 monument using these panels and any additional panels that are necessary to
40 contain the remaining phrases from the existing 9-11 commemorative monument.
41 Notwithstanding any other law, the department may use monies from the state
42 monument and memorial repair fund established by section 41-1365, Arizona

1 Revised Statutes, that are dedicated to the 9-11 commemorative monument for
2 the purposes of this section.

3 E. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2012.

4 Sec. 2. Emergency

5 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
6 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
7 law.

Passed the House February 14, 20 11

by the following vote: 40 Ayes,

20 Nays, 0 Not Voting

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

Cheryl Laube
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate April 19, 20 11

by the following vote: 21 Ayes,

9 Nays, 0 Not Voting

[Signature]
President of the Senate

Charmian Bellington
Secretary of the Senate

With Emergency

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this

 day of , 20

at o'clock M.

Secretary to the Governor

Approved this day of

at o'clock M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State

this day of , 20

at o'clock M.

Secretary of State

H.B. 2230

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE
AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

April 20, 2011,

by the following vote: 39 Ayes,

20 Nays, 1 Not Voting
without emergency

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

Cheryl Laube
Chief Clerk of the House

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

20 day of April, 2011,

at 8:30 o'clock A. M.

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of

VETO, 20____,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this _____ day of _____, 20____,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State

H.B. 2230